

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9 and 16-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-6 are amended and claims 2-3 and 10-15 are cancelled. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Tucker at the personal interview held September 20, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's statement of the substance of the interview.

I. Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 16-20 are allowed and that claims 3, 4, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

II. The Claims Are Patentable Over the Applied References

The Office Action (1) rejects claims 1, 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,956,157 to Tai; and (2) rejects claims 5-9 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,822,469 to Silverstein. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include all the features of allowable dependent claim 3, and claims 10-15 are cancelled. Claims 4-6 are amended for consistency. Thus, the rejections are moot.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jonathan H. Backenstose
Registration No. 47,399

JAO:JHB/jhb

Date: October 11, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--